

So philosophically and politically I think those are the main reasons that I have put forward this amendment.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator DeCamp, and before he starts to speak I will tell you that in following order will be Goodrich, Warner, Murphy, Newell, Kelly.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler...pardon? Oh, Mrs. President, well, whatever. What am I supposed to call you? Madam Chairperson or something. Anyway, back to where I was, Madam Chairperson and members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler has offered us a major amendment and he has offered some compelling arguments for it. I oppose the amendment and I would hope you would also. Aside from the kind of minor reasons for opposing it, fundamental, we would have no reason for Richard if we adopt this amendment. Every year since I have been here, ten years, Richard has brought this particular measure and it has been a major issue in the Legislature. You eliminate the issue, what are you going to do with Richard? So, but let's get on to some more basic reasons. That's what I thought. It's a good one. Senator Beutler has told us he believes it is constitutional. He says it has been run by the Attorney General. I can remember any number of instances in the past when they told us tying an appropriation, and that is what we are talking about, an annual appropriation, to something over which we have no control and which really isn't very predictable, which in this case is a consumer price index which is created by a bunch of bureaucrats and could be changed tomorrow. They have always suggested as I recall that that has got some problems. Now why it would be constitutional in this particular case, I guess I would like further explanation but beyond that, it really is taking something that involves millions and millions of dollars completely out of our hands, completely out of our hands and if you have read the newspapers, the front page of the World Herald, I think this week, the front page of the World Herald, either this week or the end of last week had a major article in there about the reliability, accuracy of the Consumer Price Index, that it is weighted too heavy here or not weighted there. They can change that over night. Finally, finally, there is an issue as to whether the Legislature does each year want to make sure that reimbursed to the individual is exactly whatever the cost, the amount of tax paid on food is. That is a determination that does vary from year to year. Some years, because of tight money, this or that, we decide we don't want to give as much. Other years I think we have actually had a little higher than maybe the average family has paid but I think it is a legislative decision and so we have to make it every couple of years. It is still something we